

# The Roman Catholic Communities of

**St. James the Greater**  
75 River Road  
Montague, New Jersey

and

**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
210 Route 206 North  
Sandyston, New Jersey

Office for both parishes is located at  
210 Route 206 North  
Sandyston, NJ 07826

**Parish Office: 973-948-2296**  
Fax: 973-948-4634  
E-mail address: [stjamesthomas@aol.com](mailto:stjamesthomas@aol.com)  
Website address: [saintjamesthomas.org](http://saintjamesthomas.org)  
**Rectory: 973-293-7582**

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**8:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

**PASTOR: Father Wayne Varga**  
DEACON: Mr. Wayne von Doehren  
CRE: Mrs. Mary Flexer  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Mrs. Patricia Hope  
PARISH SECRETARY: Mrs. Rosemarie Briegel

**Mass Schedule at St. James**  
Sunday: 8:00 AM and 11:30 AM  
Saturday: 8:00 AM

**Mass Schedule at St. Thomas**  
Saturday: 4:30 PM – Vigil  
Sunday: 9:30 AM  
Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri.: 9:00 AM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
St. Thomas the Apostle - Saturday - 4:00 PM - 4:20 PM or by appointment

**Religious Education for children (CCD):**  
Religious Education/Youth Office and classes are located at the Msgr. Gacquin Youth/ Religious Education Center,  
122 Layton-Hainesville Road, Sandyston (mail should be sent to parish office address listed above)  
**Phone: 973-948-7004 ~ Fax: 973-948-7007**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word (September through April):**  
At St. Thomas the Apostle Church as part of the 9:30 AM Mass.

**New parishioners** are invited to fill out a registration form which can be found in the vestibule of the Church. Often when a Catholic is asked to be a Godparent for baptism or sponsor for Confirmation a letter from the pastor of their parish is requested. This can only be given to registered and active members of the parish.

**The Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated during Mass providing that liturgical norms do not dictate otherwise. Please contact the office to schedule a Baptism and to make arrangements for preparations especially for first time parents. Baptisms may be scheduled at other times if extenuating conditions apply. Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Part of our ministry is to **visit the sick** in hospital or at home. Privacy laws do not allow us to visit or pray publicly for the sick unless permission is given by the individual or their health care proxy. Please inform us of the needs of the sick, and we will be happy to respond as best we can.

**Pregnancy Assistance**  
Call 1-800-395-HELP or Tri-State Pregnancy 570-491-5151  
Good Counsel: 1.800.723.8331 for pregnant mothers in need anytime, anyplace.  
[www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org)  
**Post Abortion Healing:**  
Project Rachel 973-777-8818, ext. 272  
Lumina: Hope and Healing After Abortion: 1.877.LUMINA1 (877.586.4621)  
[www.postabortionhelp.org](http://www.postabortionhelp.org)  
**Adoption Services:**  
Adoption@CatholicCharities.

**Welcome -We Are a Tithing Parish**

# Project: “Welcome to Our Church”

I always admire the Jehovah’s Witnesses when they stop down at my home in Paterson. They park their van at a corner, and then six or eight people pour out and head out in different directions. They’ll stop at each house, ring the doorbell, and wait for someone to answer. They’ll talk to you as long as you let them. In my most recent encounter with them, I invited them inside and gave them my Catholic perspective on what they were saying. And they respectfully listened. As it turned out, one of them was a former Catholic. I suspect there are a lot more like him.

As we were speaking, I was sad that these people, with all good intentions, were missing so much of the truth. They don’t have the Mass, or the Sacraments, or the saints, or most of the doctrines that clarify our understanding of God’s relationship with us.

And I’ve been to Evangelical services. Although there is high energy and much singing and “Halleluias,” still there’s something missing. They don’t celebrate Mass and don’t have the Eucharist, which is the Lord’s greatest sign of love for us. I begin to realize that we as Catholics have so much—and we should share it.

That is one reason for the “new evangelization” that Pope’s John Paul and Pope Francis have been speaking about. It is basically an outreach to share the treasures of the Catholic Faith with those around us. We do it non-verbally if we live as Christians should. But we’re also called to actively invite others to join us in the riches of our faith.

Let us take up the Holy Fathers’ calls to be apostles and witnesses today. Our *Welcome Project* is meant to do just that: a simple outreach to neighbors and friends to share in the riches of our faith.

Here are some helpful hints as you give it a try:

1. Offer a prayer and call upon the Holy Spirit to help you do His work.
2. If possible, go on your visit with a second person, like the disciples did.
3. Have an idea about how you will introduce yourself.
4. Wear a name tag. It will mark you as “official.” Use your first name only.
5. Dress in a way that expresses the importance of this encounter.
6. Realize that a good first impression means a lot.
7. Be positive in your encounter.
8. Expect that there might be opposition. If so, it’s not you. They may have had a bad experience in the past. You might just help heal that.
9. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, excuse yourself politely.
10. Know that Jesus is with you in everything you try to do for Him.

May we pray that this simple way of reaching out to our neighbors may bring new life to our world—or at least our corner of it. May God’s influence grow stronger, through our efforts, and may it be a way of expressing our constant prayer: “Thy Kingdom come.”

God bless you,  
Father Wayne

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 1, 2016**

**St. James the Greater**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Fran Conklin at the  
Request of Bill, Valerie, Kate & Emilia Ricciardi

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
**THURSDAY, May 5**

8:00AM – Terry Naletko  
req. by his Family

**SATURDAY, May 7**

8:00AM – Roger Laizure  
req. by his Family

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 8**

8:00AM – Peggy Duffy  
req. by Art & Maria Henn  
- Intentions of Thomas Yarosz  
  Birthday Celebration  
req. by Daniel, Thomas, Maria & Michael

11:30AM – Dick Gross  
req. by Mike Soletro  
- Intentions of Sharon Yarosz  
req. by her Children

**ST. JAMES THE GREATER**

**\$1,357.00 – Regular Collection – April 24, 2016**  
**\$ 253.00 – Campaign for Human Development**  
**\$2,477.00 – Weekly Budget Need**  
**\$ 888.00 – Regular Collection – April 26, 2015**  
***Consider a gift to St. James Parish in your will.***

**Rosaries for Peace**

Please join us Sundays before 9:30am Mass for recitation of the First Glorious Mystery of the Holy Rosary. The remaining mysteries will be recited immediately after Mass. Rosary beads are available in the Gathering Space.

The Saturday eve Mass will also be preceded by a Rosary for Peace, beginning at 4:10 p.m. May we ask our Blessed Mother, Patroness of our Nation, to help us find peace in our nation and in the world.

**Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue/Legion of Mary**

This beautifully adorned statue is a visible reminder of the love God has shown in the Blessed Mother. Placing such a beautiful image in your home turns hearts to prayer and brings grace to those who open their hearts to any image of God's love. If you would like to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in your home, or need any further information about the Legion of Mary in our parishes, please contact Diana, Legion of Mary, at 973-948-7601. *Pray the Family Rosary*

**TO CHRIST THE DIVINE HEALER WE PRAY FOR:**

Margaret Accordino, Mary Cunico, Rachel Gibbs, Barbara Haggerty, Carmen Howell, Clara Kane, Kimberly & Baby Macie, Bill Lange, Jeff Librizzi, Betty Mastrelli, Sandy Matthews, Brian McKenna, Cathy Moyer, Danielle Parker, Marguerite Phillips, Flo Puccio, Baby Teddy, Jen Vaughn, Lorraine Verga, Tarra Wagner and Thomas Walsh

**St. James Rosary & Altar Society** If any ladies in the parish are interested in joining, please call Joan Henn at 973-293-3690 or Linda Spinaplice at 973-293-7031.

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns in  
Memory of Emily Blickweidel at the  
Request of her Family

**MONDAY, May 2**

9:00AM – Intentions of Alec Krucinski  
  For Healing  
req. by Josephine Yarosz

**TUESDAY, May 3**

9:00AM – Gus Eberhardt  
req. by his Family

**WEDNESDAY, May 4**

9:00AM – Sophie Mугan  
req. by Mary Flexer  
- Intentions of Deacon Wayne von Doehren  
  15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
req. by Mary Flexer

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
**THURSDAY, May 5**

9:00AM – Muriel Kennel  
req. by her Family  
- Intentions of John O'Connor  
req. by Mary Flexer

7:00PM – Leonie Flaskamp

**FRIDAY, May 6**

9:00AM – Timothy McCauley  
req. by his Family

**SATURDAY, Vigil, May 7**

4:30PM – Lorraine McNamara and Father Art Candreva  
req. by Mary Flexer  
- Gus Slater  
req. by his Loving Family

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 8**

9:30AM – John A. Bothe  
req. George Keshish

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

**\$1,872.00 – Regular Collection – April 24, 2016**  
**\$ 414.00 – Campaign for Human Development**  
**\$4,410.00 – Weekly Budget Need**  
**\$2,039.00 – Regular Collection – April 26, 2015**  
***Consider a gift to St. Thomas Parish in your will.***



**The Legion of Mary** meets every **Friday** morning at 10:00a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Men and women of both parishes are invited to consider Auxiliary or Active membership. For further information, please contact the parish office.



### Last Sessions for Grades 1 – 5

This week will be our last sessions for Grades 1 – 5, and they will be a Family Faith Formation focused on the **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**. On Tuesday and Wednesday, parents are asked to stay with their children for their final session. If you have children that attend on both of those days, you can choose whichever day is more convenient for you and them, as the program will be the same each day. We look forward to spending our last days with your family before we end our parish sessions for the summer months!

### Catholic Summer Camp

As our enrollment for Vacation Bible School has lessened over the past two years, as has also been the case at Our Lady Queen of Peace, we have decided to try something new and combine our talents and join together! We are encouraging all children entering grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade to join us for a week of learning our faith through music, prayers, games, skits, arts and crafts, friendship and fun at **Catholic Summer Camp**. This will take place at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish on Route 206 in Branchville from Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. Registration is free and was handed out to students last week in their classes. Please return your form by June 3<sup>rd</sup>, so we can be properly prepared. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mary at 973-948-7004. We look forward to a wonderful week with old friends while making new friends too!!!



**Mother's Day Plant Sale** St. James Church will be having a plant sale on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>, after both Masses. Remember that "special lady" in your life on her "special" day. There will be 10" and 12" assorted hanging baskets while supplies last. Prices vary depending on the size and type of flower you choose.

### HOLD THE DATE

**The St. Thomas Tricky Tray** will take place on **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**. More information will follow.

### Yoga-lates

St. Thomas is offering a **Spring** fitness class with a mix of Yoga moves (for flexibility and calm mind) and Pilates (for strength and tone especially in your core muscles). The class is on **Tuesday** nights from 6:15-7:15pm for 8 weeks and **started April 12<sup>th</sup>**. **You may join us at any time**. The class is easy to follow but a full body workout. Bring a mat, hand held weights (1-8lbs.), water and a friend. Join for the session for only \$40.00 or pay \$6.00 per class. Twenty percent of the class money will be going to St. Thomas parish. So, please try it out and do something for yourself. Any questions, please call Chris Dube at 973-948-2329.

**First Saturday Mass** will be celebrated at St. James Church on **Saturday morning, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 8am**. Our Lady of Fatima promised to assist with the graces needed for salvation at the hour of death, all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep her company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation.

## 2016: St. Thomas 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year 1941-2016

**Anniversary items** are in and ready for sale. Travel mugs with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo are now available for \$5 each. Also available are anniversary logo magnets for \$4 each. Items are for purchase before and after the 4:30pm and 9:30am Masses. Grace Reich also has the items available. Be the first to celebrate the occasion of St. Thomas 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

**Good Deed Journaling.** All parishioners are invited to make note of the good deeds they perform during the course of the day. There are little notebooks on the table in the Gathering Space. Please take one and use it as a personal diary to record the good deeds you perform for the Lord each day. You may surprise yourself. These notebooks are for your personal use only, and can be a wonderful offering to the Lord of your time well spent for His honor and glory.

### Calling all "Vintage People"

Perhaps you have great memories of the Catholic Church and the America of our youth. We ask if you would like to share a memory or two with all of our parishioners as we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> year. Please pick up a blue sheet of paper in the gathering space.

**Senior "Vintage" Memories** – I remember the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring when you could go out with a sweater on, put on your roller skates, put the skate key around your neck and make your way down the street. Such joy and always a skinned knee!

**St. Thomas History** – In February 1943, Rev. Hewetson had Sunday Masses at 8 and 11 at St. Bartholomew's, an 8:30 at St. Thomas, and 10 at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Stoudt in Montague. Religious instruction for St. Thomas' grammar school students was at 3:45pm Wednesdays at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Garris. High School students and other young people were taught religion at 7:30PM on Mondays in Lafayette, with a social evening following of dancing, shuffleboard and ping-pong.



### Golf Outing???

It has been suggested to the Anniversary Planning Committee that perhaps it would be nice to plan a Golf Outing. This would most likely take place late summer or early fall. If anyone is interested in participating in this event, please call Mary at 973-948-7004 or by email at [maryflexer@yahoo.com](mailto:maryflexer@yahoo.com). The number of participants will help us to decide on the golf course. Also, if you are interested in assisting with this event, just let us know!

**Right to Life** – First Saturday prayer vigil held monthly at 10am at 8 Moran Street across from Planned Parenthood in Newton. Next vigil will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

## This Week in Our Parishes

STC – St. Thomas Church or Fr. Lewis Center

SJC – St. James Church or Church Hall

REC – Fr. Gacquin Religious Ed. Center

### Sunday, May 1, 2016

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

9:30 a.m. STC May Crowning at Mass

11:30a.m. STC Coffee Hour after Mass

### Monday, May 2

11:00a.m. REC Prayer Shawl & Ros.Makers' Mtg

### Tuesday, May 3

10:00a.m. STC Reflection on Readings

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 1 & 2

### Wednesday, May 4

4:00 p.m. REC Relig. Ed. Gr. 3, 4, & 5

### Ascension Thursday, May 5

See Mass schedule, Column 2

### Friday, May 6

9:00 a.m. STC Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
after Mass, till 12 Noon

10:00a.m. STC Legion of Mary Mtg.

6:00 p.m. STC St. Thomas Annual Tricky Tray

### Saturday, May 7

### Sunday, May 8, 2016

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

All Masses: SJC Mother's Day Plant Sale

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### Next Sunday's Reading: 7<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts of Apostles 7: 55--60*

Resp. Psalm: *Psalm 97*

2nd Reading: *Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20*

Gospel: *John 17: 20--26*

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**Ascension Thursday.** This week celebrates another important facet of the Easter Season. The **Feast of the Ascension** commemorates our Lord's last day on planet earth. It was the last time Jesus gathered with His Apostles. On this occasion He commissioned them to "*preach the Gospel to every creature*" and to "*baptize all nations, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" From now on, the apostles and their successors would be in charge of the Church on earth. Jesus, of course, would be directing them from His exalted place at the right hand of the Father. Today is one of the several Holy Days of Obligation throughout the year.

We will celebrate this mystery with **Mass on Ascension Thursday at these times:**

**8:00 a.m. at St. James**

**9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas**

**7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas**

### St. Thomas Church: Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Year

My thanks to all the Committee Members who are working on various parts of our Anniversary Year. The Kick-Off Coffee Hour was an enjoyable time. The displays of our history, in the Gathering Space, are the continuing work of Alicia Batko and Sharon Spangenberg. Souvenirs are being made available. Several Trips (Ireland, several day trips) are planned. Some future events include:

--Anniversary Picnic: Sun. June 26

--Commemoration of First Mass at old  
St. Thomas Church: Wed. July 6

--Anniversary Mass and Brunch: Sun. Aug. 28

**For young men, 15 – 25.** Our diocese has developed a unique retreat for young men, ages 15 – 25. It is an informal three-day experience during which you are asked to think about your future, and God's plans for you. It is the **Quo Vadis Retreat.** '*Where are you going ?*' is the theme, and also the translation in English. The Retreat will be held June 29—July 1. It will be held in our neighborhood: the **Sacred Heart Center in Newton.** It will include reflection time, sports, meals, Mass and discussion. You will meet young priests of our Diocese who will be running the Retreat. High school students and those of college age will have separate programs. And the cost is: Free !

Give yourself a chance to think ahead about your future, and enjoy the time with other young Catholic men of our Diocese. Call the Diocese of Paterson, 973-777-8818 x 711 for more info.